

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
/043 W

-----281920Z 028915 /46

P R 291352Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2553

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: INSTRUCTIONS ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT EXTENSION

REF A. STATE 093839 B. PRAGUE 1025

1. EMBASSY SHARES DEPARTMENT'S (AND PRESUMABLY GOC'S) DESIRE TO EXTEND BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT WITH MINIMUM FURTHER DALAY. FOR THIS REASON, WE QUESTION WISDOM OF REJECTING GOC'S SUGGESTION THAT WE DROP ONE OF FOUR (OUT OF TOTAL SIX) PRESENTLY UNUSED BEYOND POINTS IN EXCHANGE FOR SYRIA SO THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BEYOND POINTS REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AGREEING TO LIMIT USE OF BEYOND POINTS IF SYRIA IS ADDED (PARA 2, REF A) AND AGREEING TO SWAP PAKISTAN OR ANOTHER POINT FOR SYRIA DOES NOT SEEM TO US WORTH RISKING FURTHER DELAY. HOWEVER, IF WE AGREE TO HOLD NUMBER OF BEYOND POINTS AT SIX, WE COULD PERHAPS USE THAT AS A BARGAINING CHIP TO SECURE GOC'S PROMPT ACQUIESCENCE TO 60-DAY UNILATERAL TERMINATION PERIOD (PARA 3, REF A), IN CASE OF CSA FAILURE TO MEET SALES QUOTA, WHICH DEPARTMENT AND PAN AM OBVIOUSLY DO FEEL IS STILL WORTH PRESSING FOR.

2. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE PROPOSE TO MAKE POINTS CONTAINED REF A
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TO ZEMLA EXCEPT TO AGREE TO SWAP OF LEBANON, IRAN, TURKEY OR PAKISTAN (WE WOULD NEED TO KNOW WHICH) FOR SYRIA AS BEYOND POINT ON CONDITION THAT GOC ACCEPTS 60-DAY TERMINATION PERIOD.

AS MENTIONED PARA 6, REF B, GOC WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO EXTEND AGREEMENT EVEN IF WE HELD OUT FOR BOTH SEVEN BEYOND POINTS AND 60-DAY TERMINATION PERIOD. HOWEVER, ZEMLA HAS STRESSED THAT THESE

TWO "NEW ELEMENTS" WOULD REQUIRE MFA TO SEEK FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, REQUIRING ANOTHER TWO TO THREE MONTHS DELAY. IF EXTRA BEYOND POINT ISSUE IS RESOLVED, WE WOULD BE ON STRONGER GROUND IN ARGUING THAT 60-DAY TERMINATION PERIOD SHOULD BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY SO THAT WE CAN EXTEND AGREEMENT PROMPTLY.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE CAN AMEND REF A INSTRUCTION ALONG LINES DESCRIBED PARA 2. IF SO WHAT BEYOND POINT WOULD BE SWAPPED FOR SYRIA.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, CIVIL AVIATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE01086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770149-0025
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977044/aaaaaczg.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e9e2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 93839
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2754797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: INSTRUCTIONS ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT EXTENSION
TAGS: EAIR, CZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e9e2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009